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Dr. Albertson Elected Board Chairman Of VASAP

Dr. Thomas H. Albertson, a Lynchburg physician, was elected as the new Chairman of the Policy Advisory Board for the Central Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) at the Board's September meeting in Lynchburg. In addition to serving on the Board for the past year, Dr. Albertson has lectured classes of DUI defendants on alcohol's effects on the body.

Mr. David T. Petty, Jr., a Lynchburg attorney, was elected Vice-Chairman. Mr. Petty is the immediate past Chairman of the Board and has been a member since Central Virginia ASAP began operations in 1976.

In making the announcement, Lea T. Townes, Executive Director, said, "I am certainly pleased these two outstanding citizens of Central Virginia have agreed to serve in this leadership role."

Townes also announced the appointment of Vice-Mayor Trudy Thaxton, representing Bedford City Council as a new member on the Policy Advisory Board.

The Policy Advisory Board is composed of thirteen members who represent the six jurisdictions served by Central Virginia ASAP as well as the criminal justice and educational communities. The Board guides the professional staff in policy and procedural matters to insure that the best interests of the communities are served by the program. The counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford and Campbell and the cities of Bedford and Lynchburg are served by the program.

Since starting operations in March 1976, the Central Virginia ASAP has graduated 1,864 defendants arrested for driving under the influence (DUI) from its programs of education and treatment. The ASAP also addresses the drinking driver problem by supporting law enforcement activities and by encouraging Central Virginians to reinforce efforts to keep the drinking driver off of the road.

State Analyzes OSM Enforcement In Virginia

At the request of Governor Dalton, Fred W. Walker, Director of the Department of Conservation and Economic Development, has investigated a number of statements made by the Federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) officials on surface mining conditions in Southwest Virginia. Federal inspectors resumed inspection of surface mines on August 10, when the United States Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals dissolved a temporary injunction prohibiting Federal inspections. The injunction had been issued in February by U.S. District Judge Glen Williams.

Walker stated that it appeared OSM would like the press and the public to believe State enforcement of reclamation standards were lax and ineffective during the 6 months when the Federal Government was not overseeing State enforcement. Walker said nothing could be more wrong. First, the State, at the direction of Governor Dalton, continued to enforce Federal environmental standards, which were adopted by State regulations last year to comply with the Federal Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1977. Second, a preliminary analysis of OSM's own inspection reports showed the allegations of lax State enforcement to be inaccurate.

According to Walker's analysis of OSM inspection reports, which have been made available to the State, OSM performed 63 inspections, issued 42 notices of violation and extended 4 more notices issued prior to February 14, 1979. OSM issued only one cessation matters.

"From our review of OSM actions," Walker stated, "it is clear that the vast majority of (shut down) order. The same reports showed a total of 73 additional "violations" for which no citations were issued. Moreover, during these early inspections, OSM seemed to concentrate on very samll surface mining operators in Virginia.

If OSM is not issuing citations for "violations" the following might be the explanation:

1. The items mentioned are not "violations" and OSM is struggling to inflate its figures for public and press consumption;

2. State enforcement action had already remedied the problems noted, and OSM was simply keeping score; or

3. OSM is not really inspecting, but is gathering data for future use in litigation against the State or some other purpose.

Detailed examinations of the alleged violations in question, both those cited and those not cited by OSM, indicate that the State has taken firm and corrective action in vitually all instances. Walker said the State had in some cases gone beyond the OSM violation notice or comment.

In a few cases, the OSM citations were the result of disagreements between the State and Federal agencies. In others, operators were cited for mining while awaiting State acceptance of a permit plan, even though they had State approval to do so. One citation was issued by OSM for failure to maintain a haulroad which in fact is a paved State road. Others have been issued for minor items related to permit markers and permit numbers. OSM has made comments without writing citations for "topsoil" signs, perimeter markers and numerous minor the major items noted by OSM have been previously remedied or addressed by the State. Even allowing for differences in enforcement tools and procedures, there is not one clear instance of harm to public safety and health or to the environment which necessitated the issuance of any cessation orders by OSM.

"Clearly, the State enforcement without Federal direction has been successful. The only cessation order issued by OSM was for mining without a permit. That action was taken only after the State had already initiated legal action--a fact privately acknowledged by OSM personnel, in contrast to their statements to the press."

It is the feeling of State officials that the figures being released by OSM to the press are designed to mislead and confuse the public. During the trial in the District Court at Big Stone Gap and Abingdon, which lasted 13 days in March and April, State officials felt that OSM tried several times to manufacture imaginary "hazards," which, upon close examination, lacked substance. Recently it appears that OSM inspectors are concentrating on establishing alleged grounds for use in future litigation or legislative hearings.

State officials believe the distortions now being created by OSM are somehow designed to punish the State for its legal efforts both before Judge Williams and in challenging OSM regulations in a suit now pending in Washington. Earlier in the year, OSM cut off funding to the Virginia program as part of that same effort, claiming that the temporary injunction precluded its continuation. Now OSM is back, but the State has not received the Federal funds due it for enforcement. OSM has also subjected Virginia to delays in processing otlier federal grant moneys not related to enforcement as part of its campaign of retaliation against the State Administration and the group of small coal operators who have asserted their right to challenge the Federal bureaucracy.

FACTS & FIGURES

Over the past decade, the prices on products from one major company, Du Pont, have been rising a lot more slowly than the Consumer Price Index. Consumer prices in 1978 were 88 percent higher than in 1968, but Du Pont's domestic prices were only 37 percent higher.

* * *

Continued generation of profits is how business serves the interests of the public. Nearly half of all pretax dollars earned as profits are paid to federal, state and local governments in corporate income taxes.

The Bible And Daily Living

By Dr. William L. Trimyer

Christ and Lordship: In the Church

Lesson for November 4, 1979
Scripture Reference: Eph. 1:1-2:10
Focal Passage: Eph. 1:11-23
The People Of God

You are the "apple" of God's eye! You and me are special because we are God's treasure. Life can be meaningful and rewarding because of our faith in a God who can be trusted to act according to his plans. All of life can be lived with meaning and purpose in Him whom God sent to the world - your world and my world.

The Ephesian letter is written around the theme of God's purpose for his people in Christ. The idea that God can be trusted to act on behalf of his people has been long held by Christians everywhere. In fact, Christians have gambled their all on their faith that Jesus is the key to life.

We are God's advertisements for making him known to the world. By our life we may become guideposts for other weary pilgrims. By our compassion, sensitivity and willingness to get involved, we can become healers and reconcilers in partnership with God.

The Support Of The Spirit

Eph. 1:13 is the Good News in the nutshell! The salvation which Christ offers is good news. Nothing is anymore freeing that when we respond to the truth of the Gospel. In that response we are freed from slavery to self and accepted by God. Christ is the key to life both abundant and eternal. Belief in the Gospel is not simply a head trip; it is hopefully a heart trip!

As we respond to the Gospel of Christ, we become heirs of God's living power, namely, the Spirit of God. The Spirit is the expressive aspect of God, for the Spirit opens up new vistas of service in the world. The Spirit challenges and endows us to spread this power throughout all of life. It is the work of the Spirit in us that calls us to become children of God.

The Spirit is likewise a guarantee of God's intentions. The down payment is made when we take the initial faith-step in affirming our belief in Christ as the Son of God. The ultimate possession of the kingdom is God's pledge to us. And, as verse 14 suggests, at that time God will become the only center of praise and worship.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Paul geared up for mission to the Gentiles, the common folk. Paul was insightful enough to know that the Gospel of God was available to all who believe. In verses 15-19 Paul gives thanks for the accomplishments of the Ephesian mission. He has nothing but praise and high hopes for a people he has never met, but of whom he has heard great things.

You don't always have to know someone to appreciate them. There are people we will never see in person but who enrich our life. For instance, books, movies, and tapes are ministries performed by God's people who will never know us or we know them. Paul, though having never met the people in the Ephesian church, encouraged them in their faith and good works. A group of Christians do well to remember the needs of other Christians in other parts of the world.

Christians have a lot to look forward to, namely, the hope that God will "win the day," in a final triumph over death and evil; the heritage of belonging to the family of God in Christ Jesus; the continuous support and help of God, who is committed to his children.

Christ and The Church

The church and all of God's people are assured of a promising future. This assurance is demonstrated in God's raising of Jesus from death. Jesus was not ultimately crushed by the "hand of death." He did not become a spent force or a name on a tombstone. Against all probabilities Jesus emerged from the tomb a victor rather than a victim.

In life, in pain, in death, in resurrection, Christ became and remains the supreme authority over all of life and death. In the very Name of Jesus the church is grounded. No other personality other than Christ has claim over the church and God's people.

Dr. Trimyer is pastor of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin City, Va.

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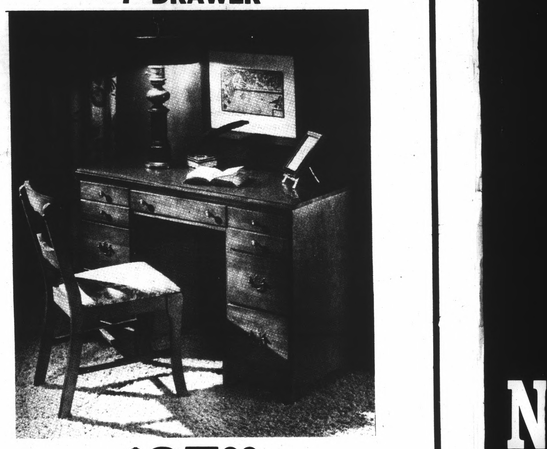

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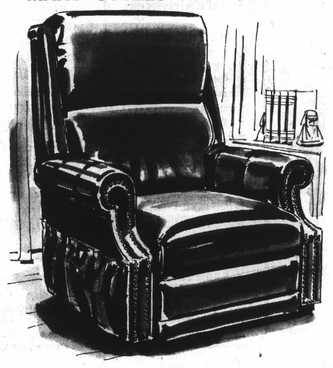

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